

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

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UPDATE FROM SECRETARY NAIG

Thank you for continuing to support the state’s ongoing conservation efforts through the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP), which we commonly refer to as “Cost Share.” This program helps farmers and landowners adopt conservation practices that reduce soil erosion – for example, terraces, grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures – by sharing some of the planning, engineering and development costs.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship continues to see strong demand for the cost share program.

In 2021, \$6.5 million of cost share funds and \$8.1 million of matching funds were used to assist 1,090 landowners implement conservation practices. More than 85 percent of the cost share funding was used to build permanent structural practices, like terraces and basins. These changes to the landscape help hold Iowa’s rich and fertile soil in place, especially when the snow melts in the spring and heavy rainfall events occur in the summer.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship’s Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality administers the IFIP program, and project applications are reviewed and approved at the county level through the SWCD offices. This gives the SWCD the power to prioritize practices that are best suited for their counties’ landscapes and the projects that have the greatest impacts on their local communities.

IFIP complements the state’s other conservation programs, like the Water Quality Initiative (WQI) and Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP), that focus on water quality and habitat. Thank you for providing dedicated funding that allows us to continue working alongside our public and private partners to protect every aspect of our state’s precious natural resources.

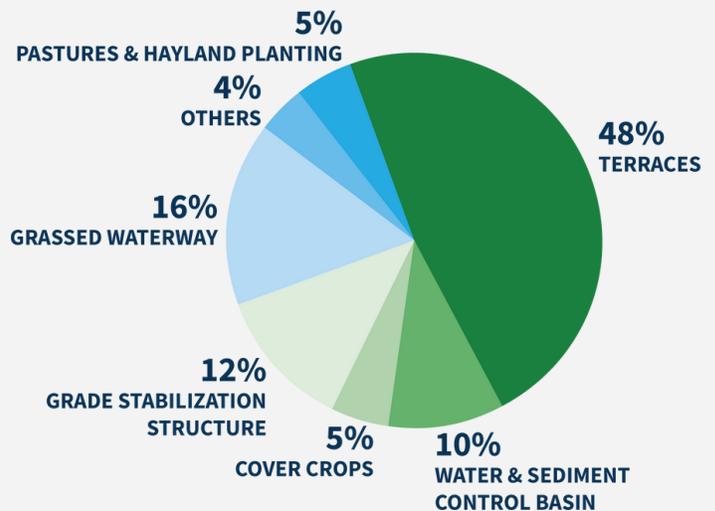


Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

COST SHARE IN 2021

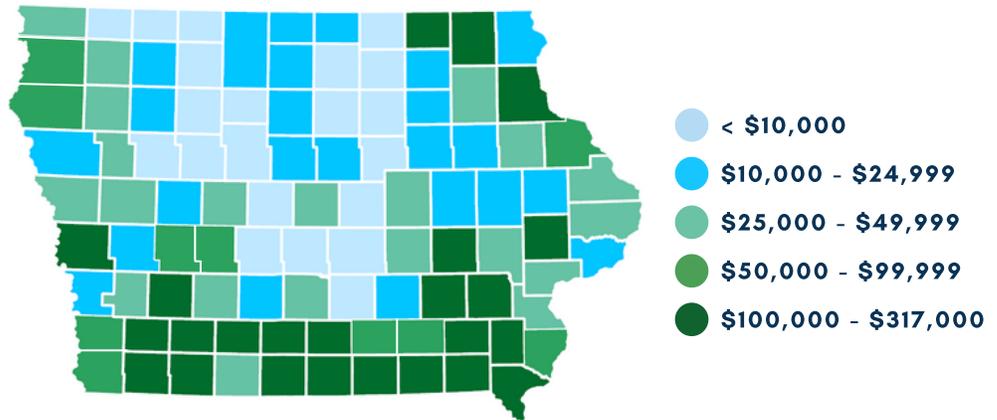
- \$6.5M** STATE CONTRIBUTION
- \$8.1M** IOWA FARMER CONTRIBUTION
- 1,090** IOWA FARMERS ENROLLED IN 2021
- 85%** OF COST SHARE PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED REDUCE EROSION FROM FIELDS AND PROTECT TOP SOIL FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS

COST SHARE ASSISTANCE BY PRACTICE TYPE

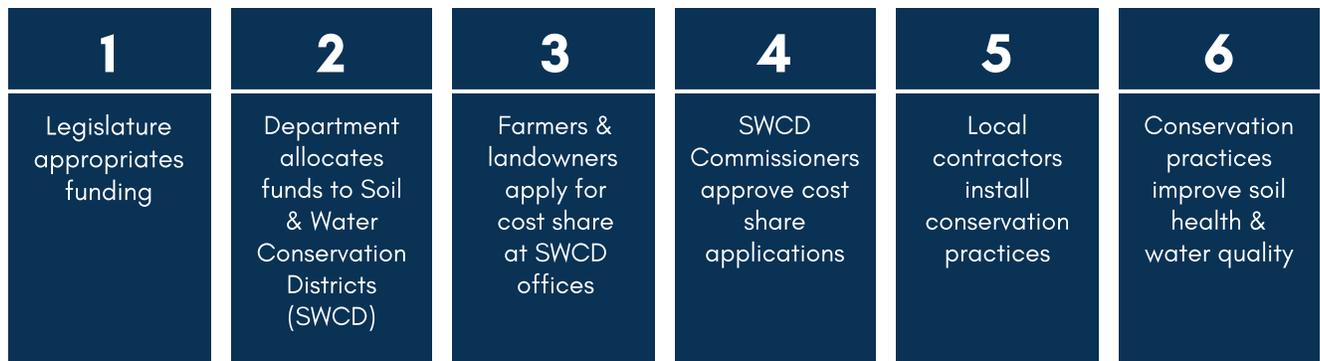


2021 COST SHARE PAID TO IOWA FARMERS

Diverse landforms across Iowa directly affect the cost and type of conservation practice best suited for each field. This impacts the funding each county needs and receives.



HOW COST SHARE WORKS



Each **Soil and Water Conservation District** is led by five locally elected **commissioners** who help administer state and federal programs and direct activities such as field days, water quality projects and awards programs. Thirty-five **technicians** and 100 **conservation assistants** support conservation work in 100 district offices. Staff cover multiple districts to support all 99 counties. Technicians provide technical support, develop surveys and layout and design conservation practices. Conservation assistants support district activities and outreach and process cost share applications and claims.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES



TERRACES



COVER CROPS



GRASSED WATERWAYS



WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS



GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

COST SHARE IN ACTION: HOWARD COUNTY

Howard County has become a leader in the promotion of cost share programs to assist farmers in meeting their on-farm conservation goals. The local staff and partners have been instrumental in assisting to implement practices and have tripled the number of practices installed through IFIP over the last three-year period including 75 waterway projects and over 250 practices completed across all state cost share programs.

Howard SWCD also leveraged other federal programs and initiatives as part of their successful conservation program delivery efforts and have worked with local landowners to establish several new local watershed projects focusing on water quality and soil health benefits. This comprehensive conservation strategy adopted by the district benefits the landowners, local and downstream water sources, and the state's economy.



PROTECTING LAKES

The Publicly Owned Lakes Program provides financial assistance to help farmers and landowners implement conservation practices that prevent soil erosion in areas that drain into publicly owned lakes and reservoirs. Reducing sediment runoff into these water sources helps support recreational opportunities and preserve water quality.

Landowners with fields within these priority watersheds can apply for up to 75 percent cost share to install conservation practices. In 2021, this program provided funding for the completion of approximately 35 practices including 11 erosion control structures and over 25,000 feet of terraces.

ELIGIBLE LAKES FOR FY 2021



THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

The partnerships between the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, 100 SWCDs and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are critical to the success of the state's conservation efforts. The Department's technicians and conservation assistants provide assistance to the SWCDs, which operate out of the USDA's service centers.

Additional conservation partners include the Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, county conservation boards, the county boards of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other community groups.